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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 22

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JUNE 1, 1953

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

LATE NEWS

Spain authorized the resumption of exports of olive oil in drums as of May 18, following the suspension of such exports in mid-January 1953. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, March 9, 1953) The export price was reported at $65 per 100 kilograms in 100 kilogram drums ($590 per short ton) or $70 in 50 kilogram drums ($635).

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The Brazilian Government announced on May 12, 1953, a 2-price system for disposal of 1952 crop cotton accumulated by the Bank of Brazil under last year's price-support program. Export prices for Type 5, f.o.b. Santos, will be fixed at the equivalent of near-month New York futures (Middling 15/16-inch staple) with premiums and discounts for other grades. Export prices c.i.f. European ports will be equivalent to 2.5 U. S. cents above the Santos prices. Prices for the domestic market will be the spot quotations on the Sao Paulo Exchange but not less than the 230 cruzeiros per arroba (37.84 cents a pound) stipulated by a decree law of December 3, 1952.

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Stocks of cotton owned by the Bank of Brazil and available for release have not been announced. However, a report released by the Minister of Agriculture, State of Sao Paulo, indicated that Bank-owned stocks in that State on February 28, 1953, amounted to 982,000 bales of 500 pounds gross. With unreported stocks in other States and subsequent purchases of 1952 crop cotton the total is believed to exceed 1.2 million bales.

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This subject is being covered in more detail in a Foreign Agriculture Circular soon to be published by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD PEANUT CROP SMALLEST OF POSTWAR PERIOD 1/

World production of peanuts in 1952 is estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service at 10 million short tons, unshelled. This is 4 percent less than the 1951 output, 7 percent less than the large crops of 1947 and 1948 and the smallest production since 1945.

The decline of 455,000 tons from 1951 is due to decreased output in all the major producing areas with the principal losses in India, the United States and China. The 2-percent decline from the first forecast (see Foreign Crops and Markets of November 24, 1952) is explained largely by the sharp downward revision of the first estimate reported for India's crop.

North American production was down 16 percent from 1951, the result of the sharp decline in the United States where the smallest crop was harvested since 1939. Acreage picked and threshed was the smallest since 1937 but the per-acre yield was the highest of record. United States acreage was cut sharply under the peanut acreage control program. Contrary to early indications, Mexico's peanut crop was 10 percent larger than in 1951, the result of a 10 percent increase in acreage.

Production in Asia declined by an estimated 280,000 tons or 4 percent from 1951. India harvested 3.2 million tons of peanuts from 11.9 million acres, a decline of 5 percent in production but a slight increase in acreage. Plantings were at a possible all-time high but drought reduced the crop in some important producing areas, particularly Hyderabad, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. This decline was only partially offset by increases, mainly in Madras, the major producing area, and Saurashtra.

China's 1952 peanut harvest is estimated roughly at around 2.4 million tons or down about 4 percent from the 2.5 million believed to have been produced in 1951. These estimates indicate that production in China during the past 2 years has been considerably smaller than in both the prewar and postwar periods when output averaged 2.9 and 2.8 million tons, respectively. Plantings are believed to have been reduced in 1951 and 1952 because of reduced export outlets.

Production in Indonesia and Burma was approximately at the 1951 level.

South American production increased almost 20 percent in 1952 because of near-record harvests in Brazil and Argentina. Uruguay's crop, however, was down about one-half. The 1953 peanut harvest is now underway in Southern Hemisphere countries. In the Argentine, output has been estimated at 198,000 tons, well above last year's crop. High producer prices which encouraged increased plantings for the 1952 crop were expected to continue this season and acreage was again increased substantially. In Brazil, much of the land which had been diverted from peanuts to cotton in 1952 has now gone back to peanuts for 1953.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

PEANUTS 1/: Acreage and production in specified countries and the world, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-52

Continent and country	Acreage 2/					Production				
	Average		1950	1951	1952 3/	Average		1950	1951	1952 3/
	1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49			
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
NORTH AMERICA										
Mexico	33	79	133	134	148	12.2	37.4	70.5	74.8	82.7
United States	1,659	3,056	2,624	2,009	1,513	614.7	1,046.3	1,010.9	839.0	682.5
Cuba	-	78	-	-	- 4/	8.4	19.2	5.2	4.2	-
Dominican Republic	-	44	56	56	- 4/	3.8	12.2	19.9	22.5	-
Total 5/	1,740	3,260	2,850	2,235	1,750	640.0	1,116.5	1,109.0	943.0	791.0
EUROPE										
Italy	4/ 2	9	9	11	11	1.6	6.3	8.1	8.2	9.2
Spain	4/ 24	16	18	19	- 6/	23.3	11.7	13.2	13.4	-
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 5/	35	35	40	45	45	28.0	21.0	26.0	27.0	27.0
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	4/ 29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASIA										
Turkey	6/ 3	4/ 7	7	10	12	4/ 1.9	2.8	4.7	9.9	13.2
Burma	784	635	652	700	722	192.2	141.7	162.4	197.7	197.5
China	4/ 3,639	4/ 3,755	-	-	-	4/ 2,913.4	2,820.6	2,756.0	2,480.0	2,370.0
Manchuria	-	-	-	-	-	4/ 7/ 121.6	-	-	-	-
French India	4/ 7	6/ 7	-	-	-	4/ 5.6	6/ 6.1	-	-	-
India	7,535	9,923	11,130	11,798	11,862	3,295.7	3,750.9	3,849.4	3,410.4	3,241.3
Indochina	4/ 42	6/ 20	-	-	-	4/ 16.0	6/ 5.6	-	-	-
Indonesia 8/	572	4/ 414	563	644	549	289.1	202.3	282.7	268.0	270.0
Japan	4/ 19	4/ 17	47	57	-	14.6	13.4	18.8	32.0	-
Philippine Republic	18	4/ 27	-	-	-	4.7	4/ 5.7	13.6	17.8	17.0
Taiwan (Formosa)	4/ 77	114	206	210	-	38.5	44.6	63.0	67.4	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.3	69.1	83.7	80.4
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 5/	13,140	15,235	16,780	17,240	16,920	7,021.0	7,177.0	7,388.0	6,736.0	6,455.0

SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina	4/ 207	292	188	260	350	87.3	136.1	66.8	102.7	163.1
Brazil	-	200	339	349	354 6/	14.8	85.0	130.3	166.4	169.5
Paraguay	4/ 29 4/	30	33	38	38 4/	19.4	14.2	11.9	13.7	-
Uruguay	5	23	18	22	18	1.2	7.5	4.5	9.5	4.8
Total 5/	320	565	600	690	780	129.0	250.0	219.5	298.0	355.0
AFRICA										
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	43 4/	100	104	-	-	8.1 4/	20.2	19.8	-	-
Belgian Congo	6/ 243	484	620	685	- 6/	65.1 6/	159.8	181.4	175.8	-
Tanganyika	4/ 277 4/	137	119	-	- 7/	23.4 4/	26.0	13.2	-	-
Uganda	4/ 156	338	350	-	- 6/	78.3	170.0	173.9	208.3	-
Gambia	- 4/	210	210	-	- 8/	58.1 4/	70.4	72.8	-	-
Egypt	23	25	26	25	27	17.2	18.8	20.0	20.6	22.2
French Equatorial Africa	4/ 98 4/	47	-	-	- 6/	18.7 4/	23.5	-	-	-
French Cameroun	4/ 279 4/	306	361	-	-	36.0	67.3	110.0	-	-
French West Africa	4/ 2,955	2,524	-	2,500	2,500 4/	875.9	812.0	660.0	860.0	850.0
Madagascar	14	29	32	39	49	6.6	8.1	9.7	14.1	24.2
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	- 7/	42.9	28.8	20.0	-	11.0
Nigeria and Cameroons	-	2,544	-	-	- 7/	354.7	581.6	350.0	700.0	650.0
Angola	18 4/	21	-	-	-	6.2	5.1 7/	6.8 7/	5.5	-
Portuguese Guinea 7/	-	-	-	-	-	28.0	40.7	41.9	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	6	9	6	-	-	1.6	2.6	1.9	-	-
Union of South Africa 9/	56 4/	252	389	434	-	12.0	39.6	81.9	101.1	116.0
Total 5/	6,100	7,415	8,300	8,000	7,920	1,750.0	2,117.5	1,827.0	2,427.0	2,350.0
OCEANIA										
Australia	4/ 14	28	18	17	14 4/	6.1	16.2	8.9	6.1	5.3
Total 5/	15	30	20	20	15	6.5	16.5	9.5	6.5	6.0
World total	21,380	26,590	28,640	28,280	27,480	9,590.0	10,715.0	10,596.0	10,455.0	10,000.0

1/ Peanuts in the shell. Southern Hemisphere peanut crops, which are harvested from April to June, are combined with those of the Northern Hemisphere harvested from September through December of the same year. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 6/ One year only. 7/ Export figures. 8/ Java and Madura only. 9/ Production on European farms only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, and other information.

In Africa, peanut production in 1952 may have been about 75,000 tons or 3 percent less than in 1951, largely reflecting the reduced harvest in Nigeria. Production in French West Africa is estimated at 850,000 tons or 10,000 less than the previous year. The 1952-53 season has been characterized by the rapid purchase of the crop, which, together with the crude oil output, is expected to be sold by the end of 1953. Peanut purchases from producers by the end of the present season have been estimated at 630,000 tons. Nigeria may have produced some 650,000 tons of peanuts in 1952 compared with the bumper crop of 700,000 tons in 1951.

A steady increase in peanut production has occurred in the Union of South Africa the past 4 years, and the 1953 crop, now being harvested, is expected to continue this trend. The new crop may be around 150,000 tons.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

U. S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING MARCH 1953 1/

United States exports of agricultural products during March, 1953, the ninth month of fiscal 1952-53, amounted in value to $250,574,000, a reduction of 33 percent compared with the $373,055,000 worth exported during the corresponding month of 1952, and of 23 percent compared with the year's peak to date of $324,483,000 in December 1952.

The country's exports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at $1,367,978,000 during the month, an overall reduction of 5 percent compared with the $1,433,679,000 total for the corresponding month of 1952, and of 1 percent compared with the year's peak to date of $1,380,405,000 in December 1952. Agricultural products constituted 18 percent of the total outward movement during the month compared with 26 percent in the same month last year. The figures reveal that while the March agricultural exports declined by 33 percent in value compared with those for March 1952, exports of nonagricultural products increased by 5 percent.

On a dollar-value basis, wheat and flour continued as the most important United States agricultural export in March, although shipments abroad were valued at only $74,333,000 compared with $121,896,000, a reduction of 39 percent. Cotton continued in second place but with exports valued at only $44,764,000 against $92,154,000 in the same month a year ago, a reduction of 51 percent. Leaf tobacco constituted the third most important agricultural export during the month with sales abroad valued at $26,358,000 compared with $16,003,000 in March last year, an increase of 65 percent. Corn continued in fourth place with exports valued at $16,178,000 against $22,216,000 in the same month a year earlier, a reduction of 27 percent.

1/ More complete details than presented in this summary will be published in U. S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products for March 1953, available on request from Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected agricultural products, during March 1952 and 1953

Commodity exported	Unit	March			
		Quantity		Value	
		1952	1953	1952	1953
				1,000	1,000
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Butter	Lb.	145	43	121	31
Cheese	Lb.	294	311	153	160
Milk, condensed	Lb.	4,729	2,423	1,057	590
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	5,371	5,371	2,801	2,924
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	4,305	2,260	670	428
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	5,676	11,106	916	1,794
Eggs, dried	Lb.	547	198	210	207
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.	1,116	1,368	509	413
Pork, total 1/	Lb.	8,512	7,745	2,012	1,723
Horse meat	Lb.	1,434	1,732	183	279
Lard	Lb.	79,627	39,862	11,735	4,255
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	71,025	79,549	5,443	4,636
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd, excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	435	257	92,154	44,764
Apples, fresh	Lb.	16,500	3,152	862	317
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	15,899	16,179	533	571
Oranges, fresh	Lb.	45,757	73,702	2,180	2,780
Pears, fresh	Lb.	1,109	1,153	117	130
Prunes, dried	Lb.	6,869	5,289	782	902
Raisins and currants	Lb.	7,476	29,976	758	2,100
Fruits, canned	Lb.	7,923	9,086	1,344	1,485
Fruit juices	Gal.	2,269	2,353	1,649	2,121
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	3,428	2,112	5,920	3,257
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	596	444	1,533	1,210
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	10,771	8,932	22,216	16,178
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	12,095	2,564	20,359	4,761
Rice, milled (excluding paddy)	Lb.	102,327	108,925	8,607	11,507
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	49,049	32,491	112,865	67,828
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	1,620	1,198	7,755	5,787
Flour, not wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	225	130	1,276	718
Hops	Lb.	624	1,485	503	1,094
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	115	106	52	53
Soybeans, except canned (60 lb.)	Bu.	762	1,659	2,312	5,092
Soybean oil, crude, refined, etc.	Lb.	24,756	4,848	3,206	693
Soybean flour, edible	Lb.	471	234	39	23
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	2,079	1,356	670	634
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.	19,593	34,887	12,782	22,847
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	6,002	5,929	3,221	3,511
Beans, dried	Lb.	31,607	17,164	2,238	1,460
Peas, dried	Lb.	5,982	4,385	443	428
Potatoes, white	Lb.	47,371	13,131	1,921	350
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	9,467	10,921	1,284	1,411
Total above				335,391	221,452
Food exported for relief, etc.				624	378
Other agricultural products				37,040	28,744
Total agricultural				373,055	250,574
Total all commodities				1,433,679	1,367,978

1/ Product weight.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption of selected agricultural products during March 1952 and 1953

Commodity imported	Unit	March Quantity 1952	March Quantity 1953	March Value 1952	March Value 1953
SUPPLEMENTARY				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Cattle, dutiable	No.	1/	30	5	2,777
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.	0	3	0	984
Casein and lactarene	Lb.	3,701	8,376	878	1,046
Cheese	Lb.	2,832	4,912	1,331	2,535
Hides and skins	Lb.	9,750	12,403	4,036	4,976
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.	6,095	12,165	1,987	4,230
Wool, unmfd,excl. free, etc.	Lb.	27,466	28,575	25,116	19,823
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton,unmfd.,excl.linters (480 lb.)	Bale	2	12	528	1,921
Jute and jute butts,unmfd.(2,240 lb.)	Ton	3	14	1,165	2,430
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.	104	427	383	1,278
Olives in brine	Gal.	999	2,158	1,417	3,418
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.	8,304	9,560	946	1,142
Barley malt	Lb.	6,262	5,804	364	368
Hops	Lb.	4	821	4	1,126
Almonds, shelled	Lb.	126	1,211	53	447
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled	Lb.	0	280	0	41
Cashew nuts	Lb.	1,448	2,945	601	1,236
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.	6,758	8,657	891	1,522
Castor beans	Lb.	10,804	9,045	1,200	811
Copra	Lb.	51,697	58,058	3,233	5,429
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.	0	0	0	0
Coconut oil	Lb.	3,731	9,069	383	1,304
Palm oil	Lb.	6,342	2,129	1,126	209
Tung oil	Lb.	2,563	93	893	26
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton	429	408	43,698	44,450
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.	13,628	40,790	2,509	2,879
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.	5,490	6,570	3,531	4,337
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.	1,230	1,402	2,030	2,204
Potatoes, white	Lb.	3,337	19,385	146	650
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.	50,827	57,893	3,664	4,542
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmfd., free in bond	Lb.	15,358	21,329	8,735	10,188
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch	4,083	4,580	5,483	6,126
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.	269,516	295,789	138,122	149,875
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.	67,495	48,588	20,989	13,064
Tea	Lb.	9,855	10,590	4,354	4,485
Spices (complementary)	Lb.	5,203	6,037	3,995	4,306
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	15	22	7,455	6,497
Rubber, crude	Lb.	190,786	127,199	80,730	33,458
Total above				371,981	346,140
Other agricultural products				63,633	60,171
Total agricultural products				435,614	406,311
Total all commodities				972,078	991,987

1/ Less than 500.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding feature of the March agricultural exports compared with those for the same month a year ago was the large reductions in exports of butter, condensed milk, nonfat dry milk solids, pork, lard, cotton, apples, prunes, barley, corn, grain sorghums, wheat, soybean oil, field and garden seeds, dried beans and peas, and white potatoes. While a number of other products show smaller reductions, there were large increases in exports of evaporated milk, tallow, oranges, raisins and currants, canned fruit, rice, hops, soybeans, leaf tobacco and canned vegetables, and substantial increases in those of beef and veal, horse meat and grapefruit.

With respect to agricultural imports, receipts from abroad during March were valued at $406,311,000, a reduction of 7 percent compared with the $435,614,000 worth imported during March last year, and of 1 percent compared with the 1952-53 peak to date of $410,718,000 in December 1952. The country's imports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at $991,987,000 in March this year compared with $972,078,000 in the same month last year.

On a dollar-value basis, agricultural products constituted 41 percent of the total imports during March compared with 45 percent in the corresponding month a year ago. As usual, such commodities as coffee, sugar, rubber, and wool constituted the principal agricultural imports. These figures reveal that while the value of agricultural imports declined by 7 percent compared with March 1952, imports of nonagricultural products increased by 9 percent.

Quantitatively, the March 1953 imports, compared with those for the same month last year, show large reductions for barley malt, castor beans, palm oil, tung oil, cocoa or cacao beans and rubber. On the other hand, very large or substantial increases took place in imports of live cattle, casein and lactarene, cheese, hides and skins, canned and corned beef, apparel and carpet wool, cotton and jute, apples, olives in brine, hops, pineapple, almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, coconut meat, copra, coconut oil, molasses, leaf tobacco, white potatoes, fresh tomatoes, coffee, tea, spices and sisal.

While the value of both imports and exports of agricultural products during March 1953 was considerably under that of the same month a year ago, the imports of such products exceeded the value of the agricultural exports by $155,737,000 during the month under review compared with an excess of only $62,559,000 during the same month a year ago. During December 1952, the peak month of agricultural imports and exports to date for the current 1952-53 fiscal year, the value of the nation's agricultural imports exceeded that of the agricultural exports by $86,235,000.--By Leo J. Schaben.

1952 BROAD AND HORSEBEAN PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Dry broadbean and horsebean production in 33 countries is estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service, at 28 million bags in the 1952-53 season. This is 3 million bags or 10 percent less than production in these same countries in 1951-52, and 11 million bags or 28 percent less than in the prewar years 1935-39.

DRY BROAD AND HORSE BEANS 1/: Acreage, Yield and production, specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-52 2/

Continent and country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average 3/		1951	1952 4/	Average 3/		1951	1952 4/	Average 3/		1951	1952 4/
	1935-39	1945-49			1935-39	1945-49			1935-39	1945-49		
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
THE AMERICAS												
Argentina	7	7	7	7	1,714	1,643	1,429	1,714	120	115	100	120
Bolivia	10	10	10	10	1,307	1,300	1,350	1,300	128	130	135	130
Brazil	125	166	199	191	680	463	364	417	850	768	724	796
Chile	2	2	3	3	1,239	1,250	830	1,200	25	25	25	25
Ecuador	20	30	50	50	500	500	500	500	100	150	250	250
Guatemala	6	10	15	15	597	500	600	533	36	50	90	80
Mexico	70	95	94	99	444	434	399	357	311	412	375	353
Total	240	320	378	375	654	516	449	468	1,570	1,650	1,699	1,754
EUROPE												
Austria	2	2	2	2	1,500	1,250	1,750	1,750	30	25	35	35
Belgium	23	11	6	7	2,230	1,718	2,457	1,650	513	189	140	117
France	147	92	126	131	1,166	834	1,078	949	1,714	767	1,358	1,243
Germany (Western Zone)	79	66	46	43	1,814	1,492	1,924	1,740	1,433	985	885	748
Greece	58	61	73	74	817	582	725	566	474	355	529	419
Italy	1,584	1,155	1,378	1,386	844	489	746	555	13,374	5,644	10,285	7,688
Malta	2	2	2	2	450	450	1,000	1,000	9	9	20	20
Netherlands	28	21	15	10	2,329	1,800	2,333	2,300	652	378	350	230
Portugal	136	162	128	131	649	566	1,195	1,015	883	917	1,530	1,329
Spain	499	341	336	325	722	483	660	615	3,607	1,649	2,216	2,000
United Kingdom	123	135	101	110	1,767	1,610	2,150	2,000	2,173	2,173	2,172	2,200
Total above	2,681	2,048	2,213	2,221	927	639	882	722	24,862	13,091	19,520	16,029
Other Europe	14	12	10	11	1,079	1,075	1,050	718	151	129	105	79
Total Europe	2,695	2,060	2,223	2,232	928	642	883	722	25,013	13,220	19,625	16,108
ASIA												
Cyprus	6	6	7	7	1,046	821	574	571	67	60	38	40
Iran	100	20	69	70	700	1,000	639	643	700	200	441	450
Iraq	60	10	12	15	873	990	917	733	524	99	110	110
Japan	80	38	65	72	1,280	1,053	1,163	1,044	1,024	400	756	752
Lebanon	4	4	5	5	425	800	880	1,100	17	32	44	55
Syria	10	48	60	45	1,200	965	293	538	120	463	176	242
Turkey	173	93	98	100	730	638	931	850	1,263	593	838	850
Total	433	219	316	314	858	843	760	796	3,715	1,847	2,403	2,499
AFRICA												
Algeria	75	56	107	110	475	370	545	541	356	207	583	595
Egypt	408	403	332	369	1,618	1,630	1,538	1,491	6,601	6,570	5,108	5,503
French Morocco	150	111	90	90	365	334	458	444	548	371	412	400
Spanish Morocco	10	23	30	30	640	565	667	667	64	130	200	200
Tunisia	71	74	100	100	758	499	661	650	538	369	661	650
Total	714	667	659	699	1,135	1,146	1,057	1,051	8,107	7,647	6,964	7,348
World total (excl. China)	4,082	3,266	3,576	3,620	941	746	858	765	38,405	24,364	30,691	27,709
China	6,931	7,159	7,437	7,660	960	915	870	903	66,535	65,516	64,689	69,192

1/ May include some green harvest particularly in the countries reporting high yields per acre. 2/ Years refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and includes the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. 3/ Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. 4/ Preliminary.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information.

Production in the 33 countries represents only a fraction of the world total as a number of large producing countries such as Manchuria, Korea, Poland, the Soviet Union and others are excluded for lack of data. Also China is excluded from the total because the volume and change of production in the 33 countries would be lost in the very much larger Chinese production. Chinese production was almost 70 million bags or 2½ times the volume of the other 33 countries combined in 1952. Furthermore the trend of production in China is upward in contrast to the downward change of production in the 33 countries.

There are many varieties of these beans produced, most of them used for food or feed or both. They are an important food item in many countries, particularly in the Far East and in southern Europe. Most of the production in northern Europe is used for livestock feed. They are used for both purposes either green or dry. Possibly the major part is used green, but the figures presented herein are intended to refer only to the dry harvest.

Yield figures from the various areas indicate that the 1952-53 season was less favorable in Europe and North Africa than the previous season; but slightly more favorable in the Americas, and Asia including China. The aggregate 1952 yield in western Europe, where Italy is the principal producer, was down 161 pounds per acre or 18 percent below the previous year. In North Africa, where Egypt is the principal producer, the average yield was down only 6 pounds per acre. The yield was down 47 pounds in Egypt. In China the estimated 1952 yield was 33 pounds more per acre than last season.

Production of these beans is of minor importance in the Americas. Less than 2 million bags were reported in the 1952-53 season in 7 countries. These included Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina. The 1952 production was estimated at 1.8 million bags which was 12 percent larger than the prewar average production of 1.6 million bags.

In Europe, which is the most important of the reporting areas, the 1952 production of 16 million bags was only two-thirds of the prewar average production of 25 million bags. Acreage was also down from 2.7 million acres in prewar to 2.2 million in 1952. Likewise in Asia the 1952 production of 2.5 million bags was only two-thirds of the 3.7 million average production in prewar. In Africa the 7.3 million bags produced in 1952 was 91 percent of the prewar average.--By Orval E. Goodsell, based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

U. S. EXPORTS OF DRY BEANS AT RECORD LEVELS, BUT SLOWING SHARPLY

Exports of dry beans which began at a high level from the United States in the current marketing year beginning September 1, 1952, dropped to a much slower movement in recent months. The movement last fall, September through December 1952, of 1,481,000 bags set a new record. It was greater by 346,000 bags or 30 percent than the previous record fall movement, September/December 1951 of 1,135,000 bags.

During the first quarter of 1953 the movement was slowed to 663,000 bags or 31 percent less than the 965,000 bags exported in the corresponding quarter of 1952. Since the rapid movement last fall more than offset the slower movement this winter the total for 7 months set a new September/March, record. The new record totaled 2,149,000 bags compared with the previous record of 2,100,000 bags in the corresponding 7 months a year ago.

From January through August 1952 United States exports totaled 2,384,000 bags. If the slower movement in early 1953 indicates a significant slowing for the balance of the marketing year, total exports in the current season will be considerably less than the record of 1951-52 which was 3,519,000 bags.

BEANS, dry ripe: United States exports for the first 7 months marketing year, 1951-52 and 1952-53 1/

Country	Sept./Dec. 1951	Jan./Mar. 1952	Sept./Mar. 1951-52	Sept./Dec 1952	Jan./Mar. 1953	Sept./Mar. 1952-53
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
Belgium & Luxembourg	34,988	23,944	58,932	44,239	12,653	56,892
Canada	23,804	12,403	36,207	13,661	11,815	25,476
Cuba	338,291	277,733	616,024	327,955	147,450	475,405
Mexico	303,993	393,135	697,128	564,553	303,888	868,441
Netherlands	320	211,025	211,345	248,758	62,082	310,840
United Kingdom	128,568	0	128,568	1,445	67	1,512
Venezuela	29,240	7,745	36,985	11,315	4,453	15,768
Israel & Palestine	33,706	22,480	56,186	43,981	74,902	118,883
Italy	1,113	7,067	8,180	19,760	2,204	21,964
Philippines	2,088	1,516	3,604	2,223	3,902	6,125
Germany (Western)	0	60	60	142,804	6,170	148,974
Greece	18,301	0	18,301	42,564	23,856	66,420
Korea	206,890	0	206,890	200	14	214
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	1,751	1,751
Others	13,705	7,918	21,623	17,644	12,378	30,022
Total	1,135,007	965,026	2,100,033	1,481,102	667,585	2,148,687

1/ Year beginning September 1.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

The slower winter exports (first quarter of 1953) represents smaller shipments to nearly every significant destination except Israel and Greece. Cuba took 147,000 bags this January/March or 130,000 bags less than a year ago. Mexico took 304,000 bags or 89,000 less than a year ago; the Netherlands 62,000 or 149,000 less and Belgium, Italy and Venezuela, all regular small customers, each took about 50 percent less than a year ago. Israel this January-March took 75,000 bags or 52,000 more than a year ago and Greece took 24,000 bags compared to none in January/March 1952.--By Orval E. Goodsell.

EFFECTIVE CACAO DISEASE
CONTROL IN THE GOLD COAST

During March 1953 600,000 cacao trees were cut out in the Gold coast in response to a disease control campaign being waged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Cooperation with the Department in most cases has been achieved by persuasion. Reluctance to agree to cutting out has been due to the fact that many trees in early stages of disease appear healthy.

Cacao plants on the Government's stations have made good growth and seedlings which are almost ready for distribution will be issued as soon as planting conditions are favorable. Over 3,000,000 seedlings will be available in the Eastern Province alone.

CANADA ANNOUNCES INTENDED
GRAIN ACREAGE

Little or no change from Canada's 1952 seeded wheat acreage is expected, on the basis of farmers' intentions as of April 30, 1953. Figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on May 20 indicate that barley acreage is expected to set a record for the second successive year, while decreases are indicated for the areas seeded to oats, flaxseed and spring rye. The reduction in spring rye acreage offsets increased seeding of winter rye, bringing total acreage near the 1952 level. Mixed grain acreage is also expected to be about the same as in 1952.

In reporting the results of the annual April 30 survey it was emphasized that intended acreages are merely indicative of farmers' plans at the end of April and that acreages actually seeded may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending on conditions affecting seeding subsequent to April 30. In view of the relatively small proportion of seeding completed by April 30 this year and the adverse seeding conditions existing throughout most of the country during the first half of May, fairly substantial changes from original acreage intentions may occur. A preliminary estimate of the area actually seeded to field crops in 1953 is scheduled for release on July 29.

The indicated acreage for all wheat is placed at 25.9 million acres, a decrease of less than half of one percent from the 1952 area. Intended spring wheat seedings of 25.2 million acres are slightly smaller than in 1952 but this decrease is partly offset by increased winter wheat acreage in Ontario last fall. Saskatchewan, with an indicated decrease of one percent from the 1952 acreage of 16.4 million acres, is the only Prairie Province where a significant change from last year's wheat acreage is expected. Ontario's winter wheat acreage, at 715,000 acres is 10 percent above the 1952 area.

The barley acreage of 8.85 million acres is 4 percent over the previous record acreage in 1952. Expected increases of 200,000 acres in Alberta and 173,000 acres in Manitoba are the major factors in the expected overall increase in barley acreage this year. The area intended for oats for grain is 10.6 million acres. This is about 4 percent below the 1952 acreage seeded to oats. The principal reduction is expected in Saskatchewan with minor reductions in most of the other Provinces.

The acreage intended for mixed grains, grown principally in Ontario and Quebec, is placed at 1.6 million acres, the same as in 1952. Total rye acreage, indicated at 1.3 million acres is virtually unchanged from the 1952 total. Compared with the acreage last season fall rye is up, offsetting the reduction in spring rye acreage. Fall rye acreage, accounting for two-thirds of the total is reported at 841,000 acres.

The area to be summer fallowed is set at 21.9 million acres, a 3 percent increase over the 21.2 million reported in 1952. This is the area for summer-fallow in the Prairie Provinces only.

U.K's. FATS AND OILS IMPORTS DECLINE IN 1952

The United Kingdom, the world's largest importer of fats and oils, depends on imports for about 90 percent of its annual requirements. Net imports in 1952, after adjusting for fat content of butter and deducting arrivals of United Kingdom produced whale and sperm oil, amounted to 1.47 million short tons, or 11.3 percent below net receipts in 1951, reports William Kling, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, London. Imports were reduced last year because of planned stock reductions and lower industrial requirements. Price uncertainty was also a factor.

Oilseed imports in 1952 increased from 497,000 tons to 565,000 tons, oil equivalent, but this was more than offset by reduced arrivals of oils and fats to 707,000 tons from 871,000 tons and finished edible products to 423,000 tons from 520,000 tons. Exports last year totaled 32,000 tons against 54,000 tons in 1951. The main sources of imports were British West Africa, Argentina, and Malaya. Lard imports from the United States have been sporadically important in the postwar period but have been limited in many years including 1952-53 because of currency difficulties. The principal oils or oilseeds imported in 1952 were palm oil, palm kernels, peanuts, cottonseed, copra, linseed and coconut oil. Also, most requirements for tallow, lard, and butter were met from imports.

Domestic production of fats and oils in the U.K. in 1952-53 is expected to increase 5 percent to almost 180,000 tons, as compared with 171,000 tons in 1951-52. According to preliminary data the increase in the current season occurred chiefly in whale (83,300 tons) and herring oils (8,000 tons), while sperm oil (10,400 tons) production declined. Output of lard (5,200 tons) and tallows (57,200 tons) is expected to remain about the same. Butter production (13,800 tons, fat content) may increase slightly but will still cover only a fraction of local needs. Domestic production of fats and oils has decreased sharply in postwar years compared to prewar output of 288,000 tons. Most of the decline since World War II is due to a much lower production of whale oil and butter.

Edible fat and oil consumption fell rather shrply in 1952. Preliminary estimates place the per capita rate last year at 42.5 pounds against 47 pounds in 1951. The chief decline, which has been for butter, has been offset in part by a greater intake of margarine. Detergents have been increasing in the United Kingdom and have displaced much soap. The consumption of industrial fats and oils has also declined with lower industrial activity and reduced demand for consumer goods. Consumption of cooking fat in 1951 and 1952 consisted to a large extent of United States lard but the rate of lard consumption in 1953 has been reduced greatly.

INDONESIAN PALM PRODUCTION AND
EXPORTS UP SHARPLY IN 1952

Indonesia's palm oil and palm kernel production and exports increased sharply in 1952, according to M. W. Meyer, American Embassy, Djakarta. Production of oil amounted to 160,900 short tons, a 20-percent increase from 1951, while output of kernels (all in Sumatra) was 42,450 tons, a 29-percent increase. January 1953 production amounted to 15,510 tons of oil and 4,390 tons of kernels.

Exports in 1952 amounted to 132,491 tons of oil compared with 107,608 in 1951 and 41,606 tons of kernels against 32,796 in 1951. January and February 1953 shipments of oil--9,241 and 10,763 tons, respectively--showed declines from end-year figures. Kernel sales during the first 2 months of 1953--4,300 and 3,605 tons, respectively--were down from December exports. Two-thirds of the 1952 palm oil exports were consigned to the Netherlands with smaller shipments to various European and Far Eastern destinations and one token shipment to the United States. Kernel shipments went to the Netherlands and Germany only.

Shipments of palm oil off Java estates for domestic consumption totaled 215 tons in 1952. Monthly consumption in Sumatra is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture at 660 tons. There is no domestic consumption of palm kernels in Indonesia.

Stocks of palm oil have progressively shown end-of-month increases since May 1952. Stocks at the end of January 1953 were 54 tons on Java estates and 10,810 tons on Sumatra estates. Kernel stocks on the same date were 4,260 tons.

Average f.o.b. export prices of palm oil during January-March 1953 were 272.82 rupiahs per 100 kilograms ($217 per short ton), the highest since February 1952 when the average was 292.53 rupiahs ($233).

For the period January-June 1953 the Minister of Finance decreed exemption from additional export duties on palm oil and palm kernels. This duty had been cut from 15 percent during February-July 1952 to 5 percent from August through December 1952. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 19, 1953.)

BRAZIL'S CARNAUBA WAX
OUTPUT INCREASES

Brazil's 1952-53 carnauba wax crop amounted to about 12,900 short tons compared with 12,300 tons in the previous season, according to the American Consulate, Fortaleza. More intensive gathering of palm fronds from which the wax is taken, offset a reduced average yield as the fronds were somewhat stunted by drought. Also, there is a growing use of machine beaters for removing the wax powder from the fronds, resulting in a higher percentage yield than by the hand method.

Trade sources report that carnauba prices on New York and European markets firmed considerably in April. However, New York prices are still almost 10 percent less than floor prices established by the Brazilian Government in May 1952.

Although official statistics are not available, exports in 1952 from the 2 Brazilian ports of Fortaleza and Parnaiba of 6,214 tons were about 40 percent below previous years. There has been some small increase in exports from other ports but not enough to alter greatly the general picture. There are large stocks of wax in the hands of the Banco do Brazil and lesser quantities are held by producers and exporters. As of mid-April, total stocks in Brazil were estimated roughly at 5,500 tons.

NEW ZEALAND TALLOW
EXPORTS UP IN 1952

New Zealand exports of animals fats, mainly edible and inedible tallow, totaled 56,277 short tons in 1952, an increase of more than 60 percent from the 34,500 tons exported in the preceding year, reports Meade T. Foster, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington. Shipments of animal fats were unusually heavy before their removal, effective October 1, 1952, from the bulk contract agreement with the United Kingdom.

The 1952 exportation of animal fats included the following items and quantities: edible fats--lard 456 tons, stearine 810, tallow 15,634, total edible 16,900 tons; inedible fats--hog grease 376 tons, tallow 38,816, other 185, total inedible 39,377 tons. The bulk of New Zealand's animal fat shipments has been destined to the United Kingdom.

Production of lard and tallow in New Zealand fluctuates from year to year in accordance with the slaughter of livestock. The estimated production for the current slaughter season (October-September) is 54,000 tons of tallow and 1,300 tons of lard, against 49,000 and 1,400 tons in the preceding 12-month period.

Roughly one-third of the tallow and lard production enters into domestic consumption. The quantity used locally is 16,800 to 20,200 tons per year. Edible tallow in New Zealand is used principally for cooking and shortening but around 5,600 to 9,000 tons are used in margarine manufacture for the bakery trade. Current export prices, c.i.f. sterling, at United Kingdom or Continental ports range downward from £ 76 per long ton ($190 per short ton) for edible beef tallow to £ 45 ($112.50) for low and no-color gut tallow. These prices are £ 40 to £ 50 per ton under those prevailing a year ago.

Specific information regarding stocks of animal fats on January 1, 1953 is not available. However, stocks of tallow probably were very small because of the heavy exports during the third quarter of 1952. Current buying of tallow is limited by both exchange and import restrictions. Several countries are now taking only limited quantities. Domestically, the demand is also down. The latter is attributed largely to heavy imports of soap.

Flaxseed is the only oilseed grown in New Zealand of any importance. Production of seed from the 1952-53 season has been forecast at 360,000 bushels, as compared with unofficial estimates of 540,000 bushels from the 1951-52 crop. Potential oil production from last year's crop has been estimated in excess of 4,500 tons.

Under normal conditions linseed oil consumption is assumed to be between 4,500 and 5,600 tons per year. At the present time, however, consumption has dropped to around 3,200 tons, reportedly due to tighter credit conditions of the past several months.

Flaxseed is grown by the producer under contract to the one oil expressing and marketing firm in New Zealand. For the current and past seasons growers have been paid £ 50 per long ton ($3.50 per bushel) for top quality seed. The wholesale price of linseed oil is £ 0-19-1 per gallon (29.6 cents per pound).

Stocks of linseed oil and flaxseed were known to be large on January 1, 1953. Only recently it was announced that no contracts will be accepted for growing flaxseed in the 1953-54 season. The reasons stated were drop in demand plus the ample stocks of flaxseed and linseed oil in the country. There appears to be little prospect for changing the order unless the Dominion can arrange to export a considerable quantity of flaxseed, thus relieving the present supply position.

Last year New Zealand exported 4,300 tons (153,560 bushels) of flaxseed. Of this quantity 164 tons went to Belgium for seed and the balance to Japan and Australia. Imports of linseed oils were relatively large in 1952, amounting to 1,713 tons. This represented oil ordered in the fall of 1951 before prospects for the large 1951-52 flaxseed crop were known. Copra imports in 1952 totaled 2,067 tons.

CUBAN LARD IMPORTS DOWN, TALLOW UP IN FIRST QUARTER 1953

Cuban arrivals of lard and rendered pork fat during the first quarter of 1953 amounted to 37,663,000 pounds, a decrease of more than one-third from the 59,472,000 pounds imported during the same period in 1952, reports Guy L. Bush, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Havana. Imports of tallow and grease (mainly inedible) in January-March 1953 totaled 8,700,000 pounds, an increase of 40 percent from first quarter 1952.

Total arrivals of lard and tallows in the year 1952 (revised) amounted to 175,303,000 and 28,200,000 pounds, respectively. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of March 23, 1953, page 258). The United States continued to be the source of almost all of Cuba's imports of animal fats. Imported prime steam lard wholesaled at 16.5 cents per pound throughout March 1953, as compared with a high and low of 22.5 and 19.0 cents in March 1952.

WORLD TOBACCO PRODUCTION FOR 1952-53 LOWER 1/

The world tobacco harvest for the 12 months' period ending June 1953 is now estimated at 7,203 million pounds as compared with a previous forecast of 7,196 million pounds. The current 1952-53 estimate is 3 percent below the 7,441 million pounds produced during 1951-52. Excluding the Soviet Union, China, and most of Eastern Europe 2/ from which only fragmentary information is available, world production for 1952-53 is placed at 5,347 million pounds, or 74 percent of the total world estimate.

This world estimate is only for countries shown and does not include tobacco produced in other countries which is consumed domestically and is of little importance. This estimate includes countries in the Torrid and South Temperate zones for the 1952-53 harvest, most of which occurs during the first half of 1953.

Decreased 1952-53 production was not reflected in 1952-53 consumption as consumption has increased substantially, especially cigarette-type leaf, in many of the large consuming countries. Since better economic conditions now prevail than a year ago, many countries are using more and better quality leaf. However, restricted use of dollar exchange in many countries will tend to affect adversely purchases of United States tobacco and affect favorably purchases from sterling and soft currency producing countries in the immediate months ahead.

Production of tobacco during 1952-53 in the United States decreased 3.3 percent; Canada, 12 percent; Germany, 31 percent; Greece, 36.5 percent; Italy, 22.5 percent; Yugoslavia, 47 percent; Burma, 6 percent; and Pakistan, 10 percent. Increases occurred in the following countries: Puerto Rico 16 percent; Spain 28 percent; India 4 percent; Argentina, Brazil, and Southern Rhodesia each 11 percent.

1/ A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agriculture Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

2/ In this analysis Eastern Europe includes the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania.

(Table on Page 504)

WORLD HARD FIBERS PRODUCTION AT HIGH LEVEL 1/

World production of abaca, henequen, and sisal (the 3 principal hard cordage fibers) in 1952 reached a new peak of approximately 1,372 million pounds compared with 1,272 million in 1951 and a prewar average of 1,141 million pounds. The 1952 harvested crop is nearly 50 percent greater than the estimated average wartime production and 20 percent greater than the prewar average. The larger production is the result of increased plantings in the Western Hemisphere and Africa in response to wartime demand and to continued favorable world prices during the early postwar period.

Production had been rising during the prewar years, but war damage in important areas, notably Indonesia and the Philippines, and the smaller plantings during the prewar years of abundant supply combined to hold world output down for some years. Production in 1946 was little more than two-thirds that of 1939, but the upward swing that began at the war's end has continued through 1952.

The respective fibers, however, have not followed the same pattern as has the total. Sisal production was barely higher in the 1941-45 period than in 1934-38 but has increased steadily since 1945. Abaca output fell to a very low level during the war and has been slow in recovering. Henequen production increased somewhat during the war but has declined steadily during the past 4 years. Thus in 1952 abaca production was 24 percent below the prewar average, henequen was about equal, and sisal was 64 percent greater.

Prices of the hard fibers generally reached their postwar peaks in March to May 1951. Late in the spring of that year the rising price trend was broken and prices declined for all 3 fibers. After a short rally they again began to decline rather rapidly and showed little sign of steadying until late 1952. By that time prices in world fiber markets were generally down from the peak by about 40 percent for abaca and 60 percent for henequen and sisal. During the first quarter of 1953, however, there was some small recovery in abaca prices, a leveling off in henequen, but a short rally and then a further decline in sisal prices.

Fiber producers are concerned about the declining prices. Since there is a lag of several years between planting of the fibers and maturity of the plants for harvest, production has continued on a high level and even increased despite the less favorable prices. Wages and other costs continue relatively high. Some distress has been felt among fiber growers, particularly in the henequen-producing areas of Mexico and Cuba, as well as in the sisal areas of Haiti and where the industry is relatively new and not completely adjusted to a peacetime economy.

1/ A more extensive statement will be published soon as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FIBERS: World production of the principal hard fibers, representative prewar average to 1952

Commodity and country	Prewar average (5-year) 1934-38	Calendar years 1939	Calendar years 1940	War years average (5-year) 1941-45	Postwar average (5-year) 1946-50	Calendar years 1949	Calendar years 1950	Calendar years 1951 1/	Calendar years 1952 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Abaca									
Philippines, Republic of 2/	3/ 375.5	395.3	379.9	4/ 100.8	170.5	146.0	213.0	277.6	246.9
Indonesia 5/	7.7	10.0	9.0	2.9	2.0	0.1	0.1	8.8	13.2
British North Borneo	4/ 4.0	4.7	6/	6/	4/ 1.7	1.8	1/ 3.7	0.3	1.1
Central America:									
Panama	-	-	7/ 0.2	7/ 4.0	7/ 7.6	7.0	6.8	7.1	9.5
Costa Rica	-	-	-	1.5	7.7	9.5	4.7	4.9	12.0
Guatemala	-	-	-	1.1	7.8	8.3	8.6	9.2	10.5
Honduras	-	-	-	7/ 0.7	7/ 5.4	5.4	2.2	4.1	2.1
Total Central America	-	-	7/ 0.2	7/ 7.3	7/ 28.5	30.2	22.3	25.3	34.1
Other countries 8/	-	-	3.9	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Total abaca 8/	387.2	410.0	393.0	111.6	203.1	178.5	239.4	312.4	295.7
Sisal									
British East Africa	261.0	301.1	290.6	291.6	334.5	359.0	362.9	420.0	446.8
Indonesia 9/	166.8	215.5	196.4	118.7	8.2	5.4	15.5	27.0	52.9
Mozambique 10/	32.3	26.3	23.8	35.6	38.1	37.0	40.2	41.4	41.9
Haiti 11/	13.4	16.2	19.6	23.0	48.0	53.2	59.1	48.3	40.6
Angola (Portuguese West Africa)	12/ 11.3	12/ 14.2	15.0	21.3	36.8	42.6	47.8	51.1	55.3
French West Africa	9.8	12/ 6.8	6/	4/ 5.9	4.2	4.9	4.8	5.3	3.5
Madagascar	12/ 5.3	6.2	5.5	5.0	6.3	9.1	6.8	13.1	18.1
Belgian Congo 13/	4/ 0.7	0.3	6/	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Brazil	6/	4/ 0.2	6/	4/ 3.1	57.1	70.5	115.7	64.0	132.3
Venezuela	4/ 0.1	0.4	0.4	4/ 2.1	5.9	4.4	6.5	17.6	19.8
Formosa (Taiwan)	6/	6/	2.2	2.2	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.5	3.5
Other British Africa 4/	3.1	1.4	0.7	1.0	3.7	4.6	3.3	3.2	3.1
Other French Africa	6/	6/	4/ 0.1	4/ 0.2	4/ 1.2	2.0	4/ 2.0	4/ 5.0	4/ 4.0
Other Western Hemisphere 4/	2.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.7	2.2	3.1	2.4	3.1
Other countries 8/	1.6	2.2	7.6	0.4	2.8	2.8	5.3	5.1	4.7
Total sisal 8/	507.4	591.9	563.1	511.7	552.0	600.7	676.0	706.6	830.2

Henequen									
Mexico	212.1	188.9	212.2	256.7	243.9	229.4	222.9	210.4	211.7
Cuba	4/ 28.2	32.9	37.9	27.5	31.1	35.3	34.6	36.2	27.9
El Salvador	6.4	7.2	7.8	8.3	6.4	7.5	6.3	6.0	6.2
Other countries 8/	-	-	-	14/	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
Total henequen 8/	246.7	229.0	257.9	292.5	281.8	272.8	264.4	253.1	246.2
Total abaca, sisal, and henequen	1,141.3	1,230.9	1,214.0	915.8	1,036.9	1,052.0	1,179.8	1,272.1	1,372.1

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Years 1934-40 data converted on basis of 278.88 pounds to the bale, but 1941 and succeeding years converted on basis of 278.3 pounds to the bale. Data include only fiber inspected by the Philippine Fiber Inspection Service and represent generally only about 90 to 95 percent of total Philippine production.
3/ Data previously published by this office, which were for estimated total production for years 1934-38, have been revised to include only inspected fiber.
4/ Foreign Agricultural Service estimates based on incomplete data.
5/ Estimated for years 1935-40 at about 4 percent of total production of hard rope fibers in Indonesia, for 1941 at between 2 and 4 percent of total exports of hard rope fibers plus an estimate of domestic consumption for the year, and for 1934 and 1942-52 roughly from incomplete data on production and trade.
6/ Not available.
7/ Tow excluded for Panama prior to 1947, and for Honduras prior to 1949.
8/ Includes other countries and estimates for producing countries for which no data are available.
9/ Estimated for 1934 and 1941 at less than 95 percent of total exports of hard rope fibers from Indonesia, for 1935-40 at approximately 90 percent of total production of hard rope fibers, and for 1942-52 from incomplete data on production and trade.
10/ Exports excluding tow for crop years ending June 30 for 1934 and 1935. Production including tow for calendar years 1936-52.
11/ Data previously published for Haiti by this office, which were exports on a fiscal-year basis, have been revised to include exports of decorticated fiber, tow, waste, and peasant-cleaned sisal for the calendar years 1934 through 1945. Production prior to 1946 is believed to be greater than exports by no more than one million pounds in any one year. Data for 1946 are for production excluding any peasant-produced sisal not decorticated on plantation machines, and for 1947-52 are for production excluding flume waste but including tow and machine-cleaned peasant production.
12/ Exports which are approximately equal to production, or production estimate based on trade data.
13/ Includes Ruanda-Urundi.
14/ Less than 50,000 pounds.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Foreign Service Officers, and estimates based on available information.

Sisal acreages, especially, were considerably expanded during the period of world shortages and very favorable prices. It is now possible that some of the recently planted areas may be abandoned or turned back to food or other more profitable crops if prices continue to fall.

Abaca supplies remain below prewar levels. The Philippines produce a large share of the world supply, accounting for 83 percent of the 1952 total compared with 97 percent of the prewar supply. Production of Philippine abaca in the past year was considerably lower than in 1951. Typhoon damage in Leyte and Samar, the source of about 40 percent of the 1951 Philippine crop, caused a decline of 26 percent in the 1952 output from that area. Other factors were damage from mosaic disease and the lessened price incentive to growers. Production in 1953 has been forecast at 5 to 10 percent less than in 1952. New plantings are being offset by abandonment of older areas, by reduced cutting by small growers because of lower prices, by scanty cuttings resulting from former over-stripping, and by the effect of mosaic disease which has been a serious problem in postwar Philippine abaca production.

Henequen production during the past 20 years has been somewhat more constant than that of abaca or sisal. However, the high level of the wartime crops which averaged 292 million pounds was 18 percent greater than the 1934-38 average. Production in the individual prewar years ranged between the small crops of 212 and 214 million pounds in 1935 and 1938 and a high of 291 million in 1936. Postwar crops averaged lower with a gradual annual decline from the postwar high of 306 million pounds in 1948 to 246 million in 1952.

Mexico accounts for about 86 percent of the world henequen production. Mexican output now is slightly less than the prewar average. Competition from an increasing production of sisal and the lower prices realized during the past year have caused distress in the henequen areas both in Mexico and in Cuba. Lower grades of fiber for padding are currently moving better than the spinning grades, and contracts for sales of better grades of fiber early in 1953 have been quite disappointing. Efforts are being made to develop new markets. Curtailed production in Mexico in the current year seems at this time to be almost inevitable.

In Cuban henequen areas there has been considerable labor unrest as growers tried to reduce wages in line with declining prices. For a time in the latter part of the year the Cuban Government operated the plantations but later returned them to their owners under an agreement by which it contributed some compensatory funds to continue payment to workers. Production of fiber in 1952 was nearly 23 percent below the preceding year and consumption by local cordage factories was 11 percent less. Early 1953 found some Cuban producers with operations shut down and a 30.55-percent wage cut authorized by the government. Only 3 of the 5 cordage manufacturers were operating. According to calculations by the Cuban Ministry of Labor, a loss of 5 to 6 cents per pound was suffered by Cuban henequen producers in the closing months of 1952. Unless adjustments can be made in production costs, the Cuban henequen output in 1953 may be considerably less than last year.

The sisal crop of 1952 is the largest of several increasingly large crops in the past 20 years. A production of 428 million pounds in 1934 was followed by peaks of 592 million pounds in 1939, by 608 million in 1943, and by steadily increasing crops of 676 to 830 million pounds in 1950 through 1952. Years of low production since 1934 were 1942 with 405 million pounds and 1946 with 451 million.

British East Africa has accounted for about one-third of the 1952 world sisal supply, compared with less than one-fourth before the war. The increase of nearly 27 million pounds over 1951 is due to rising production in Tanganyika where output was 363.3 million pounds compared with 325.3 million in 1951 and an average of 258.1 million in 1946-50. The largest plantations have been installing new machinery and equipment while prices were favorable, and it is believed they are in a more favorable position than smaller producers to adjust to lower prices. Already less native-produced sisal is being marketed as a result of lower prices. The volume of Kenya-grown fiber declined somewhat in 1952. Although sisal has made the greatest gains over prewar production of hard fibers, the outlook in British East Africa is good. Drought conditions early in 1953 may cause some labor shortage as workers leave the sisal fields to save their own crops, but this condition has not become serious to date.

Indonesian sisal suffered seriously from war damage and neglect, and recovery has been slow during these past years of unsettled political and economic conditions. New plantings have been made in both Java and Sumatra, and neglected plantations have been rehabilitated. Fiber production is expected to continue under generally improving conditions. Less favorable prices, however, have been some deterrent to maximum output. Exports of hard cordage fibers in the first half of 1952 included 17.5 million pounds of sisal and 5.7 million pounds of abaca. About 52 percent of the sisal and 50 percent of the abaca were shipped to the United States.

Brazil, which was a minor sisal producer until nearly the close of the war, now ranks second with 16 percent of the world total sisal. Potential production in Brazil is large, but lower world prices and slow marketings are expected to hold down expansion in 1953.--By Cecille M. Protzman.

LIVESTOCK SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

At the beginning of April pastures in Argentina continued ample in the principal cattle zones as rainfall through the first quarter of the year had been sufficient. Winter forage prospects are good as natural pastures have a heavy growth and stands of rye and oats for late feed are fair. The favorable forage situation together with the higher prices allowed by the Argentine Government for slaughter cattle has improved the current outlook for cattlemen. This is reflected in the small movement of cows and heifers to market and a brisk demand for such stock by cattle producers. Values of these types are slightly above equivalent retail beef prices.

Cattle marketings were increasing at the beginning of April and were sufficient to meet local consumption. In February and March central marketings were inadequate for local consumption. Refrigerator stocks were sharply reduced in the January-March quarter by exports and withdrawals for local consumption. It is unlikely that marketings will increase sufficiently later in the year to permit export commitments of beef to the United Kingdom to be met. Good progress has been made, however, in meeting the contract for lamb and offal. Compliance with pork commitments to the contract are also expected to be filled without difficulty. The 10,000 tons of beef offal provided for have already been shipped.

Pastures in central sheep zones have been seasonally good thus far in 1953 and are expected to be satisfactory in coming winter months. Range conditions in Patagonia have improved after rains and a seasonal reduction in sheep numbers with the slaughtering season nearing the end.

SPRING SOWINGS IN THE SOVIET UNION

Spring sowings extended to the northern-most regions of the Soviet Union by the middle of May. By May 20 the acreage sown to spring crops was reported as 10.5 million acres larger than the acreage sown on the same date last year. No figures, however, of the actual area sown on this date were reported and it is possible that they were smaller this year than in years prior to 1952, because of the late and unsettled spring.

The area under spring wheat seeded by May 10 exceeded by 11.9 million acres that seeded on the same date last year. The principal spring wheat regions of the Volga, Western Siberia, Urals, and northern Kazakhstan, had nearly finished wheat sowings. The planting of cotton was completed in mid-May. The planting of sunflower seed, flax seed, and sugar beets was also ending.

Great emphasis has been placed this year by the Soviet Government program on the expansion of potatoes, vegetables and forage crops. The acreage planted to potatoes by May 10 exceeded by 700,000 acres that planted on the same date a year ago, and the acreage planted to forage crops was 890,000 acres larger. The condition of winter crops was reported as good during the early part of May and the moisture supply adequate for normal growth. While the crop situation appears to be, on the whole, favorable during the early part of the growing season, it is subject to many hazzards during the remainder of the growing and harvesting periods. Therefore, the 1953 crop outlook at present is still uncertain.

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN
INDIA SLIGHTLY DOWN

The consumption of cotton by mills in India during February, March, and April, is reported to have been about 10 percent below the January 1953 figure of 318,000 equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross, according to a report from V. Krishnamurthy and J. G. Evans, American Consulate General, Bombay. However, the consumption of 1,849,000 bales by mills during August-January 1952-53 is 14 percent higher than that for a similar period a year ago and is the highest level reached since 1944-45. Cotton consumed by cottage industries and small factories not included in the above figures is usually estimated at 220,000 bales annually.

Imported cotton accounted for 373,000 bales of the quantity consumed by mills during the first half of the current season compared with 445,000 bales a year ago. These figures include 231,000 and 194,000 bales, respectively, of United States cotton.

Imports of cotton into India to date this year are far below those of a year ago and only about two-thirds of the quantities of imported cotton consumed. Imports during August-March 1952-53 totaled only 276,000 bales against 657,000 for a comparable period a year ago. Imports into Bombay port in April amounted to 74,000 bales. Imports from principal sources in August-March 1952-53, with 1951-52 comparisons in parentheses, are: Egypt 84,000 bales (95,000), East Africa 92,000 (57,000), United States 74,000 (452,000), Anglo-Egyptian Sudan 24,000 (41,000), and Peru 2,000 (9,000).

Exports of cotton have increased to 207,000 bales in August-March 1952-53 from 2,000 for a comparable period a year ago. This sharp increase is attributed to the fact that export allocations were announced much earlier in 1952-53 than in the previous year and a larger surplus was available for export because of the large 1951-52 crop and abnormally heavy imports permitted in 1951-52. Japan accounted for 108,000 bales of the 1952-53 total, the United States 21,000, and the remainder was divided nearly evenly among 6 countries in Western Europe.

Estimates of the 1952-53 crop released recently by trade firms in India are higher than those of a month ago because of improved conditions in South India and Madhya Pradesh. Estimates by three independent sources now range from 2,950,000 to 2,960,000 bales of 500 pounds gross. The last estimate published by this office (2,850,000 bales), was also made by private sources.

TOBACCO: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, average 1935-39, 1945-49, crop year 1/ 1951-52 and 1952-53

Continent and Country	Acreage Harvested				Yield per acre 2/				Production			
	Average				Average				Average			
	1935-39	1945-49	1951-52 3/	1952-53 3/	1935-39	1945-49	1951-52 3/	1952-53 3/	1935-39	1945-49	1951-52 3/	1952-53 3/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
NORTH AMERICA:												
Canada	69	110	119	92	1,103	1,103	1,293	1,470	76,556	121,373	153,792	135,400
Costa Rica	-	-	3	3	-	-	700	700	-	-	1,984	2,000
El Salvador	-	-	2	3	-	-	600	600	4/ 498	-	1,200	1,900
Guatemala	5	-	7	7	376	-	599	594	1,892	3,000	4,219	4,098
Honduras	-	12	10	14	-	-	500	509	-	4/ 8,677	5,205	7,250
Mexico	51	89	89	79	840	723	755	987	42,426	80,068	67,240	78,043
Nicaragua	-	-	1	1	-	-	892	900	-	870	581	600
United States	1,647	1,765	1,779	1,773	887	1,176	1,310	1,272	1,460,054	2,072,188	2,331,591	2,254,855
Cuba	107	132	144	136	475	559	542	550	50,333	73,812	78,000	74,674
Dominican Republic	25	47	41	45	985	960	967	889	24,625	45,093	39,682	40,000
Puerto Rico	44	34	34	39	673	800	844	847	29,393	27,231	28,527	33,034
Estimated total 5/	1,948	2,189	2,229	2,192	-	-	-	-	1,686,277	2,432,312	2,712,021	2,631,854
EUROPE:												
Belgium	6	7	5	5	2,500	1,785	2,107	2,150	16,431	12,499	11,244	10,540
France	44	63	68	69	1,676	1,486	1,666	1,532	72,995	93,614	113,348	105,821
Germany 6/	33	4/ 20	27	25	2,254	4/ 1,610	2,000	1,500	74,355	4/ 32,208	54,000	37,500
Greece	226	172	236	189	589	471	581	462	132,819	81,095	137,134	87,196
Italy	81	117	142	131	1,173	1,044	1,232	1,038	95,511	122,195	175,347	135,907
Spain	4/ 16	23	37	42	4/ 1,100	1,264	1,182	1,335	17,322	29,093	44,092	56,217
Sweden	1	1	1	1	1,735	1,000	1,665	1,443	1,061	1,036	699	592
Switzerland	1	3	2	3	1,571	1,700	1,707	1,575	2,276	5,431	4,078	4,012
Yugoslavia	39	4/ 70	92	71	969	4/ 889	669	460	37,410	4/ 62,241	61,297	32,705
Total countries shown	447	476	610	536	-	-	-	-	450,180	439,412	601,739	470,490
Other Europe 7/	221	299	243	214	-	-	-	-	214,231	202,088	221,000	156,000
Estimated total 5/	668	775	853	750	-	-	-	-	664,411	641,500	822,739	626,490
U. S. S. R.	4/ 490	520	520	520	4/ 1,129	865	865	865	4/ 525,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
ASIA:												
Iran	32	38	39	39	1,096	811	681	756	34,542	30,820	26,764	29,652
Iraq	4/ 11	4/ 11	10	15	4/ 752	4/ 750	674	734	4/ 8,057	13,275	6,614	11,023
Lebanon 8/	(	4/ 5	6	7	(	4/ 603	719	546	(	4/ 3,124	4,332	3,653
Syria 8/	(13	4/ 14	19	20	4/ (699	4/ 624	800	748	4/ (8,825	4/ 8,444	15,375	14,652
Turkey	194	290	300	320	661	660	652	604	128,505	191,448	195,447	193,200
Burma	108	120	137	135	726	780	780	747	78,400	93,600	107,000	100,800
Ceylon	4/ 14	4/ 7	11	15	4/ 650	400	659	553	9,000	4/ 2,704	7,450	8,300
China 6/	1,228	1,320	1,250	1,250	1,021	998	1,000	1,000	1,254,539	1,317,065	1,250,000	1,250,000
India 6/	4/ 917	858	764	775	4/ 831	705	660	677	4/ 761,000	604,933	504,000	525,000
Indochina	4/ 44	4/ 26	25	30	4/ 728	4/ 482	572	667	4/ 32,004	4/ 12,532	14,300	20,000
Pakistan 6/	4/ 355	178	179	170	4/ 913	944	934	882	4/ 324,053	168,040	167,171	150,000
Indonesia												
Java and Madura												
Estate	4/ 69	4/ 26	30	25	4/ 982	4/ 549	340	436	4/ 67,762	4/ 14,266	10,226	10,900
Native	4/ 349	4/ 100	253	248	4/ 402	4/ 400	343	304	4/ 140,298	4/ 40,000	86,900	75,514
Sumatra												
Estate - Deli	4/ (31	4/ (9	11	11	4/ (990	4/ (880	601	539	4/ (30,715	4/ (7,966	6,614	5,930
Native - Kerf	(	(	40	40	(	(	625	478	(	(	25,000	19,100
Japan	92	95	133	136	1,621	1,393	1,591	1,537	148,680	132,400	210,868	209,494
Korea	46	39	49	35	1,252	1,053	1,020	1,200	57,304	41,079	50,000	42,000
Republic of the Philippines	176	88	82	83	427	489	726	723	74,811	43,028	59,524	60,000
Taiwan (Formosa)	4	9	14	14	1,458	759	1,275	1,361	5,961	6,838	17,637	18,739
Thailand (Siam)	4/ 25	4/ 40	104	104	4/ 688	4/ 511	400	400	4/ 17,179	4/ 20,443	40,000	40,000
Estimated total 5/	3,708	3,273	3,456	3,472	-	-	-	-	3,181,635	2,752,005	2,805,222	2,787,957

SOUTH AMERICA:														
Argentina	34	57	92	92	928	985	837	928	31,558	56,173	77,381	85,979		
Brazil	237	315	388	405	851	746	609	642	202,703	235,094	236,053	262,347		
Chile	9	7	8	6	1,846	1,944	1,685	1,702	16,618	13,610	13,428	10,974		
Colombia	4/ 37	43	51	52	4/ 803	993	880	882	4/ 31,697	43,528	44,973	45,873		
Paraguay	22	18	18	17	808	1,200	490	908	17,792	21,886	8,818	15,701		
Uruguay	1	-	1	1	1,200	-	1,244	977	1,254	-	741	613		
Venezuela	-	-	16	16	-	-	722	844	-	-	11,613	13,138		
Estimated total 5/	340	440	574	589	-	-	-	-	301,622	370,291	393,007	434,625		
AFRICA:														
Algeria	56	59	76	67	691	614	542	668	38,667	36,209	40,968	45,194		
Nyasaland	57	80	85	85	286	323	315	385	16,311	25,843	26,800	32,787		
Tanganyika	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,568	6,000		
French Morocco	1	3	5	6	1,040	1,212	825	753	704	3,638	4,457	4,519		
Madagascar	4/ 19	8	13	20	4/ 764	644	669	370	4/ 14,164	5,154	8,818	7,385		
Mozambique	4/ 1	-	3	3	4/ 385	-	450	500	4/ 467	-	1,478	1,500		
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,704	4,000		
Northern Rhodesia	4/ 4	13	27	27	4/ 486	400	472	455	4/ 1,635	5,210	12,750	12,250		
Southern Rhodesia	51	119	194	180	507	638	503	600	26,061	75,891	97,500	108,500		
Union of South Africa	4/ 47	85	80	85	4/ 523	500	535	437	4/ 24,593	42,676	42,805	37,168		
Estimated total 5/	236	367	483	473	-	-	-	-	122,602	194,621	244,848	259,303		
OCEANIA:														
Australia	10	4	8	8	532	826	932	904	5,276	3,306	7,603	6,894		
New Zealand	2	4	4	4	787	1,131	1,616	1,642	1,457	4,527	5,896	5,750		
Estimated total 5/	12	8	12	12	-	-	-	-	6,733	7,833	13,499	12,644		
Subtotal(excl. of U.S.S.R. China and Eastern Europe) 7/	5,463	5,533	6,114	6,024					4,494,150	4,879,409	5,520,336	5,346,873		
Estimated total for countries shown 5/	7,402	7,572	8,127	8,008	-	-	-	-	6,488,280	6,848,562	7,441,336	7,202,873		

1/ Year beginning July 1. For North temperate zone countries, harvests July through October of the year shown; for all other countries, harvests November and December of the year shown and January through June of the following year. 2/ Yields are calculated from detailed acreage and production estimates rather than estimates rounded to the nearest thousand. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Less than a 5-year average. 5/ Does not include tobacco produced in several countries of the area which is consumed indigenously and is of minor importance. 6/ Data for 1935-39 not comparable with subsequent years. Data for 1951-52 and 1952-53 are postwar areas. In the case of Germany, postwar data are for Western Germany only. In the case of China, postwar data do not include Manchuria. In India and Pakistan, due to changes in the method of estimating acreage and production, postwar data are believed to be more accurate than prewar. 7/ Includes Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania. 8/ Separate data not available for 1935-39.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Official estimates of foreign countries, reports from U. S. Foreign Service Officers, results of office research, and other information.